



# Nor'Wester

## Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines / Fridays @ 11:45 - Cozy Cafe 8535 Birchwood Ct.

**June 12, 2026**

*This Week's Program:*

**Randy Wehofer**  
GM Iowa Cubs

*Arranged By:*  
Bill D. Corwin

*Greeter:*

Tim Olejniczak

*Invocation:*

Bill D. Corwin

*Sergeant:*

Jack Bell

*Scribe:*

Doyle Sanders

*Future Programs*

**6/19:** TBA

**6/26:** No Meeting

**7/3:** No Meeting

## Message from the President

Dianne Downing



My flowers are looking great as is my garden. The cucumbers are going crazy!! I can't imagine though what my water bill will be. I know it rained some but the 90 degrees kind of dries everything!

Joe and Justin are having a meeting after our meeting Friday to figure out good and bad of this year's raffle sales and what we can do the same or differently next year. Try to attend if you can!

Changing of the gavel is coming soon!!! Wendi's going to be a great Prez and I'll be writing my memory's ! Stay tuned!



## Scribbles

### *Jenie Smith / Rotary Exchange to Taiwan Rotary Scholar*



Jennie Smith, Worldwide Director of Sales Excellence at Kemin, gave a fascinating presentation on the ROI of a Rotarian. After graduating from Iowa State University she sold insurance for a while before starting a tomato farm (leasing land from her grandmother for \$1 per year).

During her stint as a farmer, she applied to be part of the Group Study Exchange from District 6000 to Taiwan (led by Jeff Bremmer). She was listed as a backup and ended up being a member of the team. During an exhausting and exhilarating trip, the group visited many clubs. Jennie reflected on several lessons in leadership that apply equally well to tomato farming, GSE and her current work for Kemin: 1) Do the work; 2) Don't ask anything from your team that you aren't willing to do; 3) Have stamina.

In 2012 Jennie earned her Masters Degree in Rural Studies at Massey University in New Zealand as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. While studying she lived with host families for the first 2 weeks in NZ as well as attending 28 various Rotary functions through the year. Together with her new friends they explored each others' culture (even learning about some differences in idioms / slang).

Continued...



## 2025-26 Officers & Directors

Dianne Downing, President  
Wendi Wilson, President Elect  
Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer  
Bill W. Corwin, Secretary  
Ed Arnold, Board Member  
Bill D. Corwin, Board Member  
Tony Hunt, Board Member  
Kelly Peterson, Board Member  
Tim Olejniczak, Past President

## Other Locations

### Monday

West Polk County, Food Depot, 3000 SE Grimes Blvd, Suite 200 in Grimes (Noon)

### Tuesday

Ankeny, Ankeny Golf & Country Club, (11:45)  
Ankeny, Magee's Irish Pub, (6:00 pm)  
Johnston, Hyperion Golf & CC, (7:00 am)  
Dallas Center, Memorial Hall, (Noon)  
Norwalk, City State Bank, (Noon)  
West Des Moines, DM Golf & CC, (Noon)

### Wednesday

East Polk County, Lutheran Church of the Cross (7:00 am)  
Adel, Adel Public Library, 303 S. 10th St. (Noon)

### Thursday

Waukee, Des Moines Golf & Country Club, (6:45 am)  
Des Moines, Embassy Club - Ruan Bldg, (Noon)  
Winterset, Pizza Ranch, (Noon)  
Rotary Club of HOPE, First & Third Thursday of Month  
(5:30 pm - Virtual Zoom Meeting)

### Friday

Des Moines, AM, Wakonda Club, (7:00 am)

## Upcoming Events

**Installation Dinner**  
Tuesday, June 23 at Gilroy's

## Scribbles Continued...

After returning to Iowa she realized her skills and efforts were not well aligned as a tomato farmer. Through connections she landed a job with Kemin and worked to achieve her current position as World-wide Director of Sales Excellence. In 2024 she had the opportunity to earn her Global Executive MBA at IESE University in Barcelona. Her class consisted of 37 students from 26 countries and the course involved study around the world. Yet another globe-trotting cultural experience.

One of the ways Jennie gives back to her community is working with In Harmony Farms, a venture started by Sharon Krause that provides subsidized lots of 3-5 acres to farmers raising specialty crops. Access to land is one of the biggest impediments to starting farming in Iowa. Many of the farmers they work with are immigrants to the US and have no family legacy to lean on.

Jennie concluded that the ROI of a Rotarian is "Opportunities created, lives influenced and doors opened". What an inspirational message about Rotary in the world.

Scribe, Mark McAndrews

## RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Awards



**RYLA Student Kelly Damian Garcia w/ Mark McAndrews**

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is an intensive, multi-day leadership training program designed for young people. Participants (typically ages 14-30) are sponsored by local

Rotary clubs, which cover the registration costs. The program features dynamic speakers, team-building exercises, and workshops focused on character building, communication, and community service

## Future Info

### Bill D. Corwin - Program Chair

|         | Greeter        | Invocation | Sergeant   | Scribe       |
|---------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Jun 19  | Kelly Peterson | Tony Hunt  | Dan Boes   | Julia Taylor |
| June 26 | No Meeting     | No Meeting | No Meeting | No Meeting   |
| July 3  | No Meeting     | No Meeting | No Meeting | No Meeting   |

*Can't complete your assigned duty?* Please assist by finding your substitute!

Items for the Nor'Wester should be submitted by end of the day each Monday. Please send to:

**Dianne Downing**

iowagirlddn@gmail.com

